

great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Robert Ward attends Dawson High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Founding fathers like George Washington, Samuel Addams, Thomas Paine, and Benjamin Franklin were willing to deny the most powerful nation, navy, and army (The British) in the 1770s. Why? They were tired of abuse and fatly representation that was given to the New England colonies as they argued for fair and equal representation in the British parliament. "No taxation without representation" was declared by John Hampden when asked to pay for a shipping tax to the British parliament. He argued that he shouldn't have to pay any taxes to the British government when he wasn't even represented in their parliament. The founding fathers noticed and followed suit, declaring independence for America in 1776 after the British government had refused to give equal representation for the colonies. The American Revolution took the lives of 50,000 along with thousands of French and Indian soldiers who fought for the America's ideals. America won the war with Washington's determination, Indian guidance, and new guerrilla warfare. Why was such a conflict pursued? The right to be represented and participate in the political process was why.

Thousands have died and still due to this day to protect every citizen's right to be involved in the political process. The ability to be involved gives every citizen in the country their "bite". It is the easiest way to make an impact on government and the nation short of being in the government administration. By simply participating: voting, suggesting legislation, and being involved in organizations like the congressional youth advisory council everyone can have a voice, a privilege that has been fought dearly for, and that few possess. It is crucial for those who want to have an impact to be a part of the political process.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANT WORK OF KA VOICE

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I am excited today to recognize the very important work of KA Voice. KA Voice is working tirelessly to enfranchise and empower the more than 67,000 ethnic Koreans residing in Illinois. Through voter registration efforts, community forums, debates, and policy engagement, this non-partisan group is working to give Korean-Americans a strong voice in Washington, D.C., statehouses, and in local governments.

I have long made it a priority to work with our local Korean-American community to ensure that they have a strong voice in Congress. KA Voice has made it easier for me to hear and act on of the community's priorities. Whether it is on the issue of immigration reform, a stronger economy or better relations with South Korea, KA Voice has helped me

set an agenda in Congress that is moving our country forward.

This Saturday, March 28, KA Voice will hold its second annual national conference in Northbrook, Illinois. The conference will focus on civic engagement, which is at the heart of our democracy. I want to personally thank KA Voice President Charlie Jong Jung and his team of young leaders for bringing this important conference to Illinois and for their efforts in building a national organization or Korean-Americans.

#### CONGRATULATING THE LAKE OCONEE ACADEMY SCHOOL

**HON. JODY B. HICE**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to pay tribute to Lake Oconee Academy: a charter school based in Greensboro, Georgia, that was named one of the U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Schools in 2014 and was named one of the best 50 elementary schools in the United States.

Today, I want to commend Lake Oconee Academy and its vision for educational excellence and community involvement. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the National Blue Ribbon Award is given to the schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. In my opinion, the Lake Oconee Academy is more than just a scholastic entity. It is a place of opportunity and hope.

Far from being a stopping point where students survive until a better opportunity avails itself, the academy is a place where character and responsibility is held in high regard and taught daily. Students are taught the values they need to go on and succeed in life.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Lake Oconee Academy on all of its many accolades and congratulate the students, and staff for all their fantastic endeavors.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF AL ROTH

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a leader in our South Florida community, Mr. Al Roth.

It is with a heavy heart that I learned of his passing and I join other Floridians in mourning his death. Mr. Roth was a longtime Florida citrus farmer, hotelier, grocer and pioneer of both Broward County and the Town of Davie, which is located in the heart of Florida's 23rd District. His life is now part of the fabric of our South Florida history and he will be long remembered.

As Al's son Bob, of Bob Roth's New River Groves, said, "He was an icon, a machine. He just didn't give up. He was like three people. Nobody worked like him . . . He would set up a display and come back the next day and

change it. He said you have to let people know things are changing."

For as much as things changed throughout the decades, some things always remained the same, like Al's friendly smile, his kindness and his generosity.

His personality was larger than life, and always reflected the wonderful man that he was. And I know firsthand that he always made his customers and my constituents feel welcomed, happy and valued. He genuinely cared for all those around him, whether family, a customer or a passerby.

At 104 years young, Al was a mainstay of our South Florida landscape. Although Al is no longer with us, his legacy lives on in his family and the institutions he helped found for all who live in and visit Florida. I hope they will long serve as a tribute to him and the indelible mark he left on our community.

#### INTRODUCTION FOR THE ROBIN DANIELSON FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCT SAFETY ACT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time advocate of women's health, I am proud to reintroduce legislation that would address unanswered health concerns regarding the safety of feminine hygiene products through the Robin Danielson Feminine Hygiene Product Safety Act.

American women spend well over \$2 billion per year on feminine hygiene products and the average woman will use over 16,800 tampons and pads over the course of her lifetime. Yet, despite this large investment and high usage, there has been limited research on the potential health risks these products may pose to women.

Recent independent studies led by women's health organizations have shown that some feminine hygiene products could contain additives that may be harmful to a woman's health. While the FDA requires tampon manufacturers to monitor dioxin levels, this information is not made readily available to the public and much is still unknown about the cumulative adverse effects potentially posed by other components contained in these products. American women deserve the ability to make informed decisions when purchasing products that could affect their health.

It is time to move past menstrual health being taboo and ensure that accurate information with regards to women's health is being collected and is readily accessible. That is why I am reintroducing the Robin Danielson Feminine Hygiene Product Safety Act which directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to research whether the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other chemical additives like chlorine and fragrances pose any health risks to women who use feminine hygiene products. This bill emphasizes the need for more research and an understanding of additives in all feminine hygiene products.

I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation that directs substantial, scientific research to be conducted in order to best protect the health of America's women.

COMMENDING THE CITIZENS' COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE FBI

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the efforts of eight individuals whose actions in 1971 helped uncover the illegal actions by some working on behalf of our own government to suppress the civil rights of many of our citizens. These eight individuals were members of a group who called themselves the Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI (the "Citizens' Commission"). The Citizens' Commission was responsible for obtaining documents from the Media, Pennsylvania office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that helped prompt the national debate about the intelligence community's domestic surveillance programs. The ensuing discussion ultimately led to the first congressional investigations of all intelligence agencies and to the establishment of the first congressional intelligence oversight committees.

We know the names of six of these individuals: William C. Davidon, Keith Forsyth, Bonnie Raines, John C. Raines, Robert Williamson, and Judi Feingold. Two members of the Citizens' Commission whose actions are equally commendable and contributed just as significantly to the cause and legacy of the Citizens' Commission have chosen to remain in anonymity.

On the evening of March 8, 1971, the members of the Citizens' Commission entered the satellite office of the FBI in Media, Pennsylvania, and left having taken nearly all of the documents they found within the office. In the following months, the members of the Citizens' Commission repeatedly mailed to reporters at several news publications documents detailing the contours of our intelligence agencies' programs that spied on American citizens and the vast length to which our civil rights had been violated for decades in the name of J. Edgar Hoover's desire to quell political dissent. These programs included COINTELPRO, or Counter Intelligence Program, a series of covert and often illegal programs conducted by the FBI targeted at disrupting domestic political organizations. It has been said that the intent of COINTELPRO was to accomplish its goals by destroying lives and ruining reputations.

The revelations made by the Citizens' Commission sparked a national debate concerning these programs as well as the importance of civil and privacy rights to all Americans. The news reports generated by the documents that had been made public helped form the basis for creation of the congressional committees that investigated intelligence agencies in 1975. Hearings held by the Senate committee, known as the Church Committee for its chairman, the late Senator Frank Church of Idaho, revealed the wide scope and impact of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI on American life throughout his nearly half century as director of the Bureau. Testimony before the committee revealed that he had secretly used his power to destroy individuals and organizations whose opinions and purposes he disliked. He secretly punished civil rights and antiwar activists and also average Americans who expressed their

dissent in letters to newspapers or by participating in demonstrations. In the Bureau's harassment operations—as opposed to law enforcement or intelligence gathering—officials of the FBI secretly operated as prosecutor, judge and jury against people Hoover regarded as subversive. Thousands of people in government and education lost their jobs as a result of unverified files created by FBI informers that were used against people who were not permitted to face their accusers.

From the beginning of the Vietnam war, Hoover made himself the watchdog of dissent against the war—dissent by average Americans as well as Members of Congress who questioned war policy. In August 1964, when only two senators, Senator Ernest Gruening, Democrat from Alaska, and Senator Wayne Morse, Democrat from Oregon, opposed the Vietnam War authorization legislation—known as the Gulf of Tonkin resolution—the FBI director regarded their votes as subversive. Agents collected the names, and started files on people who sent telegrams to Senator Morse expressing support for his stand against the authorization bill. Two years after the resolution was passed, when Senator J. William Fulbright, Democrat from Arkansas, convened hearings to assess the progress of the war, Hoover placed Fulbright under surveillance to determine if he was a communist or dupe of communists.

The Church Committee's extensive final report stated:

"Many of the techniques used would be intolerable in a democratic society even if all the targets had been involved in violent activity, but COINTELPRO went far beyond that. The unexpressed major premise of the programs was that a law enforcement agency has the duty to do whatever is necessary to combat perceived threats to the existing social and political order."

The Church Committee further concluded, "Too many people have been spied upon by too many government agencies, and too much information has been collected."

As a result of the actions of the Citizens' Commission, the resulting national discussion about these issues led to important changes to our government's domestic surveillance operations. The FBI's policies and practices were evaluated and reformed with respect to how the agency addressed domestic security threats, and the Department of Justice instituted investigative guidelines on domestic intelligence gathering.

Because of the important contribution the Citizens' Commission made to the public awareness and debate concerning domestic surveillance, national security, civil rights, and privacy, these eight individuals deserve our recognition as some of them have recently made their identity known. The identities of six of them and the impact of their non-violent act of resistance recently became known in the documentary film 1971, directed by Johanna Hamilton, and in the book *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI*, written by Betty Medsger.

While we continue to discuss the proper use of domestic surveillance techniques today, particularly as technology evolves in ways that could not have been foreseen during the 1970s, we must remain vigilant to abuses of power, even if done with the stated goal of protecting the public. May we strengthen our resolve to protect the rights these individuals

cherished and helped preserve over forty years ago.

HONORING AUSTIN HERNANDEZ

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Austin Hernandez attends Foster High School in Richmond, Texas. The essay topic is: select an important event that has occurred in the past 15 years and explain how that event has changed our country.

THE STEPPING STONE TO DESIGNER BABIES.

Imagine a world in which a couple could choose the gender of their baby. There would be no more suspense about the baby's gender. Before conception, people would know and would be able to give themselves adequate time to prepare for the arrival of their new bundle of joy. Well, this is a process that actually exists; it's called gender selection. On May 31st, 2012 The U.S. House of Representatives voted on whether or not to pass a national Ban on the use of abortion to eliminate an unborn child because of an undesired sex. This fast track procedure was not passed, but still has hope. If it were passed then the gender selection could be promoted and this reoccurring problem would not exist. Over the Past decade Gender selection has become a common practice used by many couples around the world.

The world today is not perfect, and neither are its people. Heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's, and many other diseases run rampant in children, and one can't really prevent it. But what if it were preventable? With gender selection, this is possible. According to the Center for Human Reproduction (CHR), "In some cases, the so-called 'sex-linked diseases' are inherited via the mother but only male offspring are affected (muscular dystrophy, hemophilia, etc.)." For example, because hemophilia only affects males, a woman with hemophilia has the disease but it does not affect her. However if she were to become pregnant with a boy, the disease would then affect him. With gender selection she would be able to save her baby boy from a life of problems. This process has led to fewer abortions and increased the health of children, which in turn could virtually increase the life expectancy of the U.S.

There are not only health reasons, but also psychological reasons for gender selection. The CHR states that "a single female may feel better equipped having a daughter than a son; parents who lost a child may feel a strong need for a child of the same gender." If one were a single parent, wouldn't they feel better with a child of the same gender? They also claim that parent's whose children have passed away, may have the desire for another child of the same gender. In fact,